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# Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery

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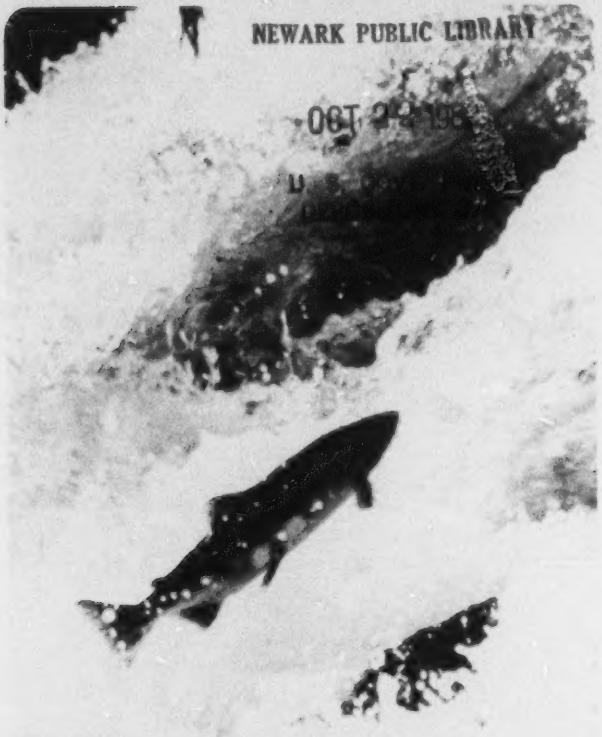

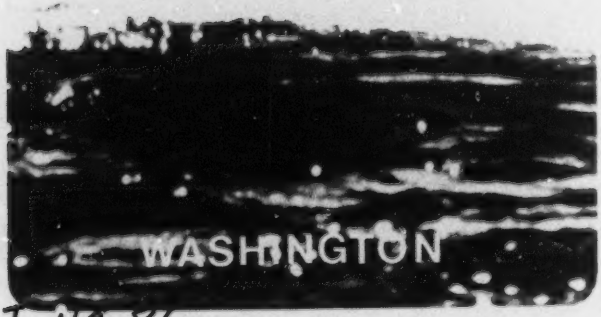


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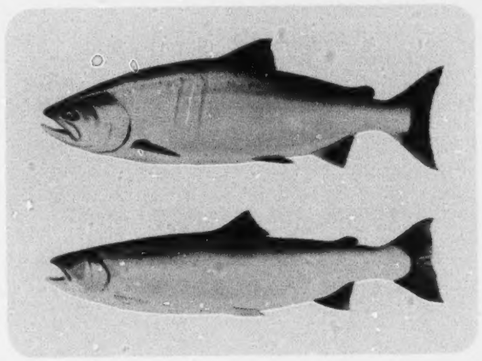
## VALUED RESOURCES

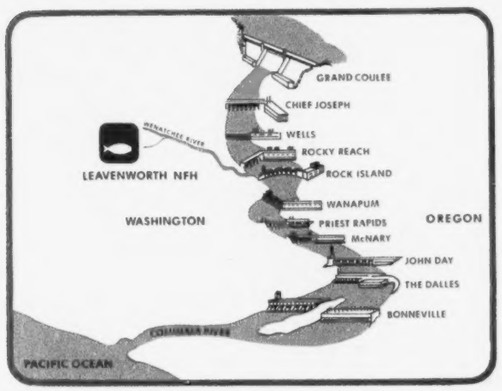
Annual rearing of about 2,500,000 spring chinook salmon is the primary effort of the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery. Smaller numbers of steelhead and kokanee salmon are also reared at the hatchery.

Both the chinook salmon and the steelhead are *anadromous,* they are born in fresh water streams, migrate 500 miles to the ocean to grow and mature and then return to fresh water to breed and die. Returning adult fish are captured by hatchery personnel, artificially reared and released. The kokanee salmon remain in the Upper Columbia Basin inland waters.



## Why was Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery created?

Upon completion of the Grand Coulee Dam in 1939, the upstream migration of thousands of adult salmon in the Columbia River was brought to an abrupt halt. Cut off from their ancestral spawning grounds, several races of these magnificent fishes were threatened with extinction. Along with others, this National Fish Hatchery was placed in operation in 1940 to give a helping hand to the salmon in the Columbia River and its tributaries.




## Only ½ of 1 percent of salmon released from Leavenworth survive to return.

Chinook salmon and steelhead must cross fish ladders at seven dams and travel over 500 miles from the mouth of the Columbia River to reach this hatchery. At times of low water these dams keep many fish from completing their journey.

Chinook salmon are heavily fished by increasingly efficient means in the Pacific Ocean. In addition, the particular strain of chinook salmon here at Leavenworth must escape being caught throughout their long journey from the sea. Other strains of salmon on shorter coastal streams may only have to travel 50 miles to spawn.

Many of the natural streams beds where fish have spawned in the past have been destroyed by siltation. Salmon and steelhead eggs must be deposited in a certain size of gravel which traps eggs but allows them to receive the proper amount of oxygen from the circulating water.

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## YEAR AROUND ACTIVITIES AT LEAVENWORTH NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

### Spring chinook salmon

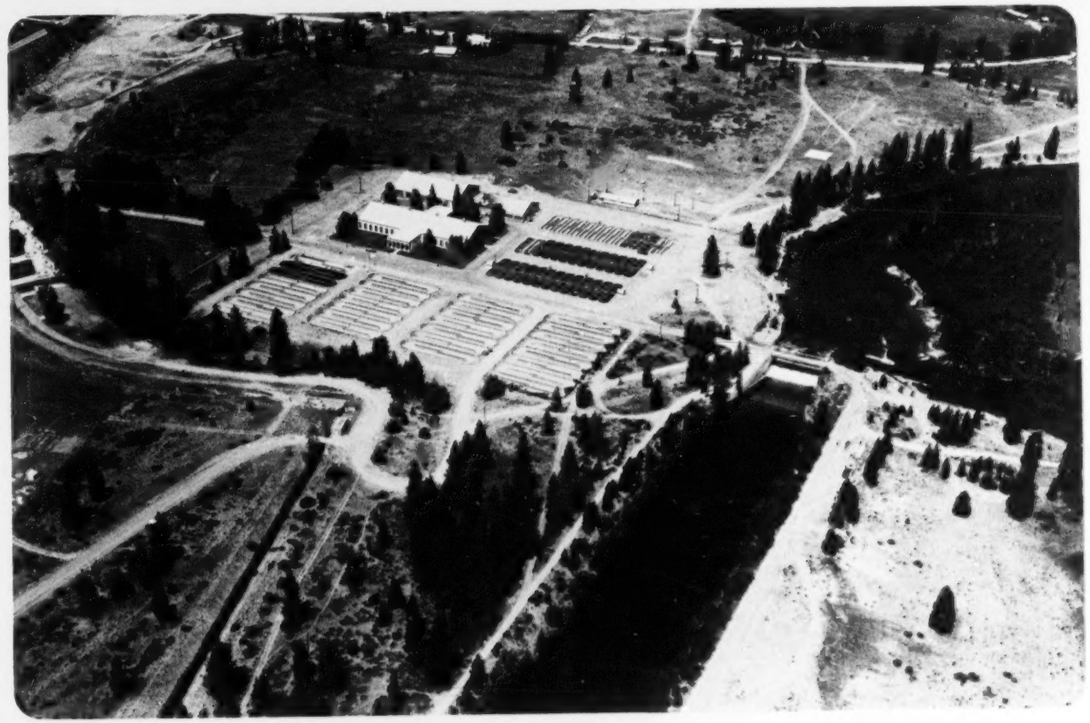
Eggs taken from about 1000 returning salmon produce the 2.5 million spring chinook salmon released annually. Each female salmon carries about 3,500 eggs. After hatching, the fry are reared for about 16 months before they are released into Icicle Creek which flows through the hatchery grounds. After 2 to 3 years of ocean life they return up the river to spawn and die.

### Steelhead

About 100,000 steelhead are produced at Leavenworth annually. After about 14 months, when they are 6 to 7 inches long, they are released to migrate to the ocean. Like the chinook salmon, they are released in mid-April when rivers are full of water and passage over the dams is easiest.

### Kokanee Salmon

In cooperation with the State of Washington Department of Game and U. S. Bureau of Reclamation the hatchery rears up to several million kokanee salmon annually. The state brings the eggs to the hatchery for rearing and then later plants the fish produced in Bureau of Reclamation waters of the Upper Columbia Basin. Kokanee do not migrate to the ocean, but are a landlocked form of salmon that grow to maturity in fresh water.



## VISITING LEAVENWORTH NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

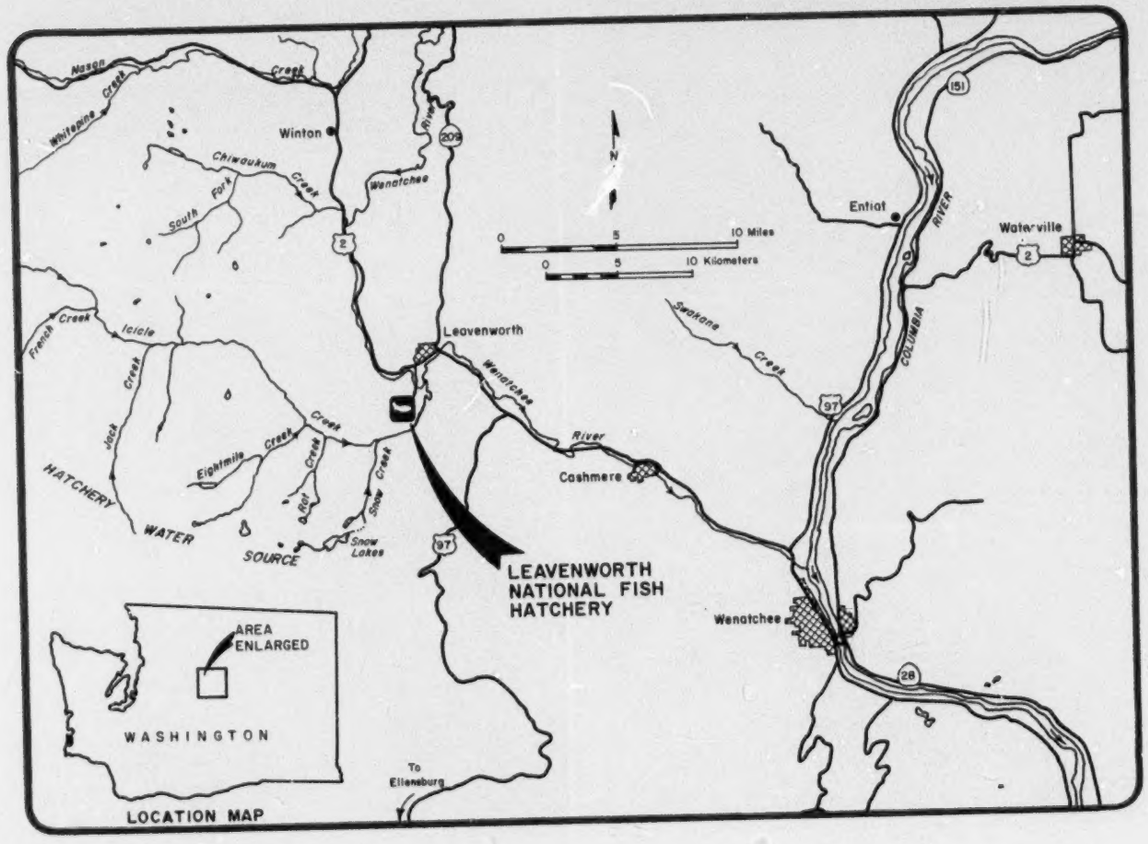
**When to visit?** The hatchery is open year around.

Exhibits which identify the fish and describe their interesting environmental needs can be viewed during office hours from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm (seven days a week).

**Locating the hatchery**—At the west edge of the town of Leavenworth turn left from U.S. Highway 2 onto Icicle Road. Continue for about 1½ miles to a sign directing to the fish hatchery.

## Nearby Fishing.

Sport fishing in the area is often excellent. Rainbow, cutthroat and eastern brook trout can be taken in many nearby lakes and streams. Runs of winter steelhead in the Wenatchee River attract many fishermen.




## OTHER LOCAL FACILITIES

Located in an area rich in the history and traditions of the old West, the nearby town of Leavenworth is far-famed for its year-round recreational activities. Skiing in wintertime with an internationally known ski jump, hunting and fishing in the surrounding Cascade Mountains, and swimming and boating in Lake Wenatchee, all combine to make this one of the most popular resort areas in the West.

The U.S. Forest Service maintains camping and picnicking areas, as well as hiking and riding trails to nearby scenic spots.

Lake Wenatchee State Park offers picnicking and camping facilities, swimming, boating and fishing.

Hunting for mule deer on the open eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains is considered to be quite good. Information on regulations may be obtained from the Washington Department of Game.

## For further information contact: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Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery
Route 1, Box 123A
Leavenworth, Washington 98826

Phone: (509) 548-7641



**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**
**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

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